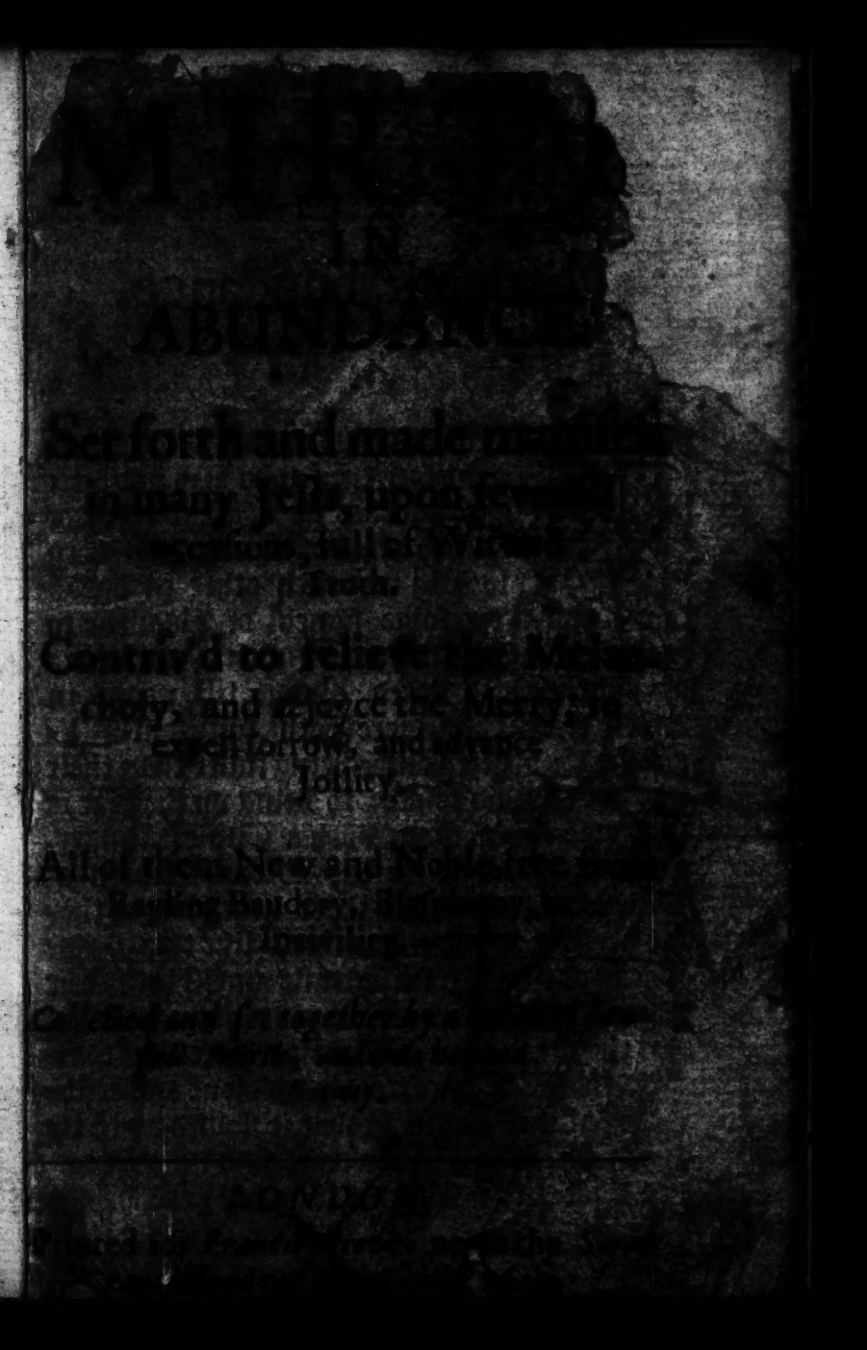

Abundance.

I.

There were two good fellows of ancient society, (who had not seen one another in a great space of time) that one morning very luckily met each other in Budge Row, and after some signes of gladnesse to meet so happily, they agreed upon a morning draught, which lasted almost till noon, in which time they were both sufficiently liquor'd. But their bellies being fuller than their heads, they did resolve to bring up the rear of that morning's action, with a Cup of Canary, whither they went, to the Swan-Tavern at Bridge-gate, where for three hours longer they fell pledging of one another, like two Game Cocks at the end of a battaile untill both their Eyes were in a very glimmering condition. In the mean time whilst they were thus toasting, there fell an exceeding violent and continuing glut of Water, so that it flowed up to the [illegible] and no passenger could get under. At this time my good fellows having

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There was not a braver fruitfuller Country in the world than Leith in Scotland: The Welchman answered him again, Prut, that was false for there was no place so full of all sorts of fruits, as was in Wales. Jockey replyed again, that he knew a piece of ground in Scotland where the grass grew up so suddenly that if you throw a Staff in it over-night, in that time, the pasture would so over-grow it, that you could not see it again the next morning. But Jenkin hearing this, with a great Stone made him this answer, By Saint Taffe that the throwing so small a thing as a Staff was nothing, for (quoth Shinkin) we have divers pieces of Ground in our Contry, that if you turn your Horse into them, you shall not see him next morning.

3.

Two ingenious Citizens, Mr. Chambers, and Mr. Garrot, one morning took a little recreation to walk to Paddington, where by the way, they cast their eyes upon that fatall tribet which stands in the road, vulgarly known by the name of Tyburn. Quoth Mr. Chambers (looking upon it) Yonder is a very pretty Tenement if it had but a Garrot. I (quoth Mr. Garrat) so it is, but it must have Chambers before it have a Garrat.

4.

Two gentlemen met upon the Road, betwixt

twixt Ware and London, the one was a wild young Gallant who had more means than Manners, the other a very grave discreet and temperate Citizen of London; who considering his own yeares, conceived that the younger man would give him the way, and by continuing his speed resolved to trye the young Gallants manners, untill their Horses heads met. But the young fellow croft expectation, and uncivilly demanded the way of his elder: who replyed, Sir since you will dispute it, I must tell you according to the rules of Civility, the Elder in our Country have allwayes the way of their Younger: But the bold Upstart answered him again, that his Horse would not give way to a Foole. To which the old man replyed, But my Horse will, and so resigned the way to my gallant.

5.

A mad young Gallant, such another as the last we talked of, having rid as he feared, out of his way, ober-took a blunt Country fellow, and asked him which was the way to Salesbury: The Country man intending not only to set him right: but withall to know whether as no he had committed any error in his way thither, asked him as the manner is from whence he came, to which the surly Gallant answered, Why what is that to you from whence I came. You say true master, quoth

the Bumkin, It is nothing to me from whence you come, nor whether you goe. So he walkt away with his hands coupled behind him, and left the gentle fool to study out his way to Salesbury.

6.

Another Gentleman as mad as the two former, riding over a hill and being doubtfull that the descent was boggish, call'd rudely to a fellow (as rude as himself) who was making a hedg, You sirrah, rogue. Master quoth the Hedger. Do you live here? quoth the Gallant: Yes and please your worship quoth the Dit-cher: Quoth the Gentleman, is it hard at the bottome? Sir, replyed the Country fellow, very hard at the bottome. The Gentleman being thus allured lets Spurs to his Horse, and rid down the hill pell-mell, but before he had rid out of call from the Country fellow, his Horse was up to the belly in a slough, where he stuck fast and hurt not alight: but in great fury call'd to the Ditcher, You base lying Rogue you, did not you tell me that it was hard at the bottome? True Master (replyed the Countryman) so it is, but you are not at the bottome yet.

7.

An old Gentleman and his man, having rid an hard days journey and comming into their Inne at night, the Gentleman called supper

supper to be made ready, and commanded his man to take care of the Horses; but when John went to the Stable, and saw the Horses was tired, rubbed down and littered, and fresh hay in the rack up to the top, but the Oyler having these principles of obstinacy in him which belongeth to the horse Tribe, so soon as John's back was turned, took down the hay out of the rack again, which John perceived through a hole, and was going to question it, but that he was interrupted by his Master, who having newly supp'd, call'd him to supper likewise, come John take thy meat and go to supper, I thank God I have supp'd, but have my Horses supp'd John, Yes Master, Sir, said John, I think they have, for I saw the Hostler take away.

8.

There was a Crosse set up in the middle of a little Market-Town, in those days when Crosses had more esteem than they have now, for men would bare-headed, [illegible] and provoked them to advance [illegible] and piss against it, which was [illegible] by some superstitious people who [illegible] it, that he put up these lines in [illegible] ting.

He is a very foolish Ass,
That dares to piss against this Crosse,
But an unhappy twang who had [illegible]

such a case of necessity repair'd thither, viewing the verses laughed; and having taken them down, under writ two lines more, and stuck them up again: the lines were these.

Why what a foolish Ass was this,
To set up a Crosse, where a man should piss.

9.

I came into an Inne, once where some melancholy person had in a very fair hand, with a piece of Cole, written these following lines upon a wall.

God and the Souldier, alike adore;
Just at the brink of Danger, not before.
When danger's gone both are alike requited.
God is forgotten, and the Souldier slighted.

10.

There was a pretty little high-spirited Gentleman whose name was Wood, who had received some affront from one Mr. Story, a very large, big-boned comly Coward, and resolved to take revenge upon him for the injury wheresoever they met; which happed: For Mr. Wood with another friend of his coming through Fleet-street, they met this aforesaid Mr. Story. The little man draws his Sword, and begun to make a push at Story,

Story, which Story [illegible] the hand, [illegible] treated a little [illegible] friends handy [illegible] him with many [illegible] he [illegible] so publickly, but chiefly he [illegible] ingine against such a man that [illegible] so much the advantage of him in [illegible] quoth the Gentleman, you must confess [illegible] Story is full. To which little Wood [illegible] this replie, I be plack him down [illegible] knees high.

II.

A little crooked Gentleman had [illegible] taken a very fair house to dwell in, and [illegible] being richly furnished it, he invites a friend of his [illegible] a very merry man to see it, and to judge of the bargaine. In having [illegible] him all the rooms, the Gentleman told him what rent he paid. The Crooked man answered him, that he gave an hundred pounds for a fine, and fifty pounds a year. [illegible] friend, I do not like your bargaine. Quoth the Crooked man, I [illegible] good penny worth. I am not of their [illegible] replyed his friend, for would any man be [illegible] mad to give fifty pounds a year for [illegible] that he cannot stand upright in. So they both laught and went to dinner.

12.

One being asked the Question, why a Dog goes about before he lyes down, was answered by another; because he goes about to lye down.

13.

There was a certain dishonest person a Scrivener whose name was Smith, who having been found guilty of counterfeiting bands to a false deed, was threatned to be hanged and indicted for forgery, to which he might reply, to your worst, I shall come off well enough I warrant you; my name is Smith, and if a Smith may not have the liberty of forgeing bonds shall a person of his function?

14.

A certain merry Parson that lived in the old merry days, being a little pursie by being a very good fellow that would always pay his Club, having fat up too late on the latter day night was a little addicted in his eyes to read from the next morning Lecture to a Chapter in Exodus the beginning of the Chapter began thus, And God told Moses, &c. but his eyes failing him like a true Clubber he read thus, And God told Moses, &c.

15.

A Company of good Companions made a match to go to Green-goose fair, where most commonly there are very Laicie Reckonings,

and

and so they found it: but one thirsty person amongst the rest grumbled at it, and said he never paid so dear for a Goose in his life: but another answered him (who had been at more wit) that it was very cheap, for he had a Goose once at Winchester that cost him ten pounds.

There was a Gentleman [illegible] by and practice was [illegible] playing, Starling, [illegible] ting of Weights, Mixing, and [illegible] with divers pastimes [illegible] over-match'd all [illegible] information, that he was [illegible] of England, and he was [illegible] that came to him, and [illegible] could not find any man [illegible] it happened, that one [illegible] drinking Match in [illegible] he met a North Countryman [illegible] extolling a great Goose [illegible] in the North [illegible] manly [illegible] mer of all that [illegible] Western Gentleman [illegible] which was [illegible] he was [illegible] and there- fore in case [illegible] provided himself [illegible] and rid into

the

the North, where with little enquiry he found the Gentleman's house, and knocking at the Gate, he was informed by a Servant that his Master was in his Parke a mile off. The Traveller returned thanks, and with his Horse in his hand (guided by the Servants direction) he went to him, where he found him mending of a pale. Now take notice that this North Country Gentleman was a very stout man of very few words: and the Western Gentleman of as many, who thus began to accost him: Sir, I have intelligence that you are the stoutest man in all the North, and I am as highly reputed in the West, which hath provoked me to find you, out that we may trye both our strength, and our skill, so far that fortune at one time may Crown one of us, the only glorious man in England. The North Country-man was still at his worke: but heard distinctly all that he said: but returned no answer, onely when the other had ended speaking, and expected a reply, the North Country man comes fairly to him, puts his hand under his twist, and pitcheth him over the Park pales, the West Country man see him do that so easily, began to think there was no contending with him, and therefore very civilly with his Hat in his hand, gave him a return in these words. I thank you Sir heartily. Pray throw my Horse over too.

17.

17.

A Souldier, who amongst many others being found guilty of mutiny, was condemned with his Companions by a Councill of Warre to throw the Dice for his life, for such a certain number was to dye, and they of them were only to live, according to the favour of the Dice. So they all threw but one man, who was very obstinate and would not throw, they told him he must, but he answered them that he had made a Solemn oath never to throw a Dye whilst he lived, and he would not be forsworn, but that would not serve his turne, for at the last they put them in his hand, and he threw them away from him. But they that tooke them up againe found their chance to be two sixes and it went for a Cast, and saved him.

18.

There was a Gentleman who had been very smartly drinking at the Feathers Tavern in Cheapside, where there is a very long entry from the street door to the Bar, and a drinking roome by the way, where were many civill persons with their wives at supper, but their door was only shut to and not latched; and this Gentleman staggering through reeld against this door, and fell head-long into the Room, to the sudden affrightment of the Company, who rise up and demanded the reason of that rudeness,

nesse, the poor Gentleman with very much a-doe got up, and staggering with his hat in his hand he made hard shift to cry them all mercy in these words: Gentlemen and Ladyes, I pray excuse my rudeness, and confider, I am not the first that have fallen into ill Company.

19.

A Wenching fellow having beene out all night, was asked where he had been? Who was answered, a hunting. A hunting quoth the other: where I prethee: marry in Bloomsbury Park replyed the fellow. how quoth his friend in Bloomsbury Park: that was too little purpose for I am sure there is ne're a Hare in it.

20.

A Gentleman having been late out was at midnight going home to his Lodging, but by the way the Watch in Cheapside call'd him, which he took no notice of but togg'd home as fast as he could stride, they call'd him again and again, but still he answered not; untill at the last the Constable commanded four of them to fetch him in, they followed him, overtook him, and told him he must goe before the Constable; so with some unwillingness they brought him back to the Constable, whom he charged of incivility for stopping him in his way home. I cry you mercy quoth the Constable,

table, I pray how am I uncivill? Yes marry are you quoth the Gentleman, for sending your bills to me after I have paid the reckoning.

21.

A Gentleman who had constantly beene a good fellow, meeting with some of his friends at a mornings draught, told his Companions that God forgive him, he went to bed like a beast last night, why quoth they? were you so drunk? No quoth he I was so sober.

22.

There were two notable boon Companions which when they met were alwayes so indeared to each others Company, that very seldom an earlier houre than midnight could part them, but when they were drunk they had two troublesome infirmities, Jack could not goe nor Will could not speak, therefore one night before they fell to drinking, they made Articles of agreement that when they were drunke Will should carry Jack, and Jack should speak for Will, and after this agreement to drinking they went pell-mell, untill the one was drunk, and the other lame, so after they had paid the Reckoning, Will takes up Jack a pick-pack and carries him to Ludgate, and being very weary sets him down in the dark on a bench close by the prison. The Constable and Watch who were within the Gate, hearing

a little, called out, saying, Who goes there? come before the Constable, Will could not but enough, but could not speak, to be sent over to the Constable, who examined him whence he came, and why he was out so late, and where he lived, to which Will could answer nothing but make mouths: but Jack having his tongue at liberty as he was sitting in the blind hole cries to the Constable: Sir, he cannot speak. Upon that the Constable asked who was that which spake, and commanded him to come before him, to which, Jack as he answer Sir I can't goe, at which the Constable and Watch laught, Will took up his load again, and away they march't.

FINIS.